

Agriculture & Extension Education Committee
August 18, 2006
Minutes

Committee members present: Chair Wilbur Petroskey, Tom Rudolph, Romelle Vandervest, Paul Dean and Guy Hansen.

Others present: Dan Kuzlik, Toni Rogers, Jim Winkler, John Coyle, Howard Sipple and Kerri Ison.

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 9 a.m. by Chair Wilbur Petroskey.

Approval of agenda: Motion by Romelle Vandervest/Tom Rudolph to approve the agenda with permission to change the order of the day. All ayes; motion carried.

Approval of minutes: Motion by Paul Dean/Romelle Vandervest to approve the minutes of August 4, 2006. Discussion followed noting a misspelled word. All ayes; motion carried.

Date of future meetings:

September 11, 2005 1:30 p.m.

Extension Classroom

TAG update: Jim Winkler circulated a draft of a brochure promoting TAG to be distributed at participating school districts and provided a copy of the amended resolution as approved at last week's County Board meeting. Winkler commended Jonna Jewell's talents on developing the brochure, noting course content was lifted directly from the resolution. Winkler requested Committee members review brochure and suggest corrections or changes. Discussion followed. Winkler noted Washburn, Douglas and Ashland counties currently have county youth government programs and several communities have similar programs with other municipalities. Winkler hopes to be able to expand the program to include town government, school boards, etc. in the future. Rudolph suggested distributing finalized brochure to all county board members. Hansen suggested involving an interested teacher at each school to help make sure the program works the way it was intended. Motion by Guy Hansen/Tom Rudolph to approve the TAG report. All ayes; motion carried.

Winkler circulated a brochure promoting MOCK, noting an article will be included in the next employee newsletter and has plans to meet with civic groups in the next month to promote the program.

2007 personnel requests: Jim Winkler presented the request to continue the Summer 4-H/Horticulture Assistant LTE position in 2006. Discussion followed. Guy Hansen requested justification for the increase in hours be presented to Labor

Relations Committee. Discussion followed. Item was tabled until after the Summer Assistant report.

Exhibition/Education Subcommittee report: John Coyle provided finalized revenue figures noting a \$3,500 decrease in revenue from last year. He stressed it is clearly a struggle to rely on gate revenue and that weather was probably an issue this year.

2007 Oneida County Fair budget: John Coyle provided copy of the 2007 proposed budget and reviewed it with the Committee. Discussion followed. The budget decreased \$9,000 from last year. The Subcommittee has determined the county's insurance coverage is sufficient so they will not purchase other coverage. County provides \$20,000 for capital equipment only.

Paul Dean commended John Coyle and the Subcommittee on the job they do on the Fair but is concerned for the future of the Fair as the numbers have continually decreased the past few years. Romelle Vandervest believes we have many out-of-county supporters and should do more promotion locally. Guy Hansen felt the Fair was the best it has been in the last few years. Discussion continued. Wilbur Petroskey believes in the Fair and it is a small price to pay to keep one youth out of trouble.

Guy Hansen questioned how the \$4,000 shortfall in revenue will be covered? Coyle indicated there is \$20,000 in county funds that are not listed in the budget as it is to be used for capital equipment that could be appropriated to cover the shortfall. Discussion continued about the shortfall and the Finance Committees intentions for that funding.

Coyle noted if the County decided to end the fair, there would still be obligations to Hodag 50 for the lease, to the carnival, and the County would need to provide a venue for the 4-H youth to exhibit their projects to be able to continue on to State Fair. Discussion continued. It was felt a serious effort needs to be made to fill the Subcommittee slate and recruit more short-term volunteers. The Extension Committee needs to really help with this. Tom Rudolph proposed each Extension Committee member provide the name one person to approach regarding serving on the Fair Subcommittee and bring it to the next meeting.

Howard Sipple felt that "partnering" with Lac du Flambeau or Potawatomi Indian Nations on events, instead of just soliciting funds, would be better accepted. The appropriation time frame is the first of September for the Potawatomi. Sipple also suggested having civic clubs "sponsor a family" to be able to go to the fair or have corporations use fair tickets as safety incentives.

Motion by Romelle Vandervest/Paul Dean to accept the 2007 Oneida County Fair budget as presented. Lengthy discussion continued. All ayes; motion carried.

2007 Personnel Requests for Oneida County Fair: The Fair Subcommittee is again requesting secretarial support for 2007. Per the budget request, \$1,500 would cover 170 hours for the year. Motion by Tom Rudolph/Romelle Vandervest to approve the Fair Secretary LTE request of 170 hours at \$8.84 per hour. All ayes; motion carried.

Invoices for Oneida County Fair: Motion by Guy Hansen/Tom Rudolph to approve the monthly invoices for the Oneida County Fair as submitted. Discussion followed. John Coyle indicated funds are budgeted for these expenses. All ayes; motion carried.

Monthly budget report: Motion by Romelle Vandervest/Guy Hanson to approve the monthly budget report for the period ending 7/31/06. All ayes; motion carried.

Monthly invoices: Motion by Tom Rudolph/Romelle Vandervest to approve the staff expenses and forward to Finance for payment. All ayes; motion carried.

2007 equipment requests: None.

2007 departmental budget: Dan Kuzlik and Kerri Ison presented the 2007 departmental budget. Brief discussion followed. It was noted the budget guidelines were followed with a 0% increase in operational expenses. Increases are in the salaries/contractual services line items. Motion by Guy Hansen/Tom Rudolph to approve the 2007 department budget as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Family Living position update: Dan Kuzlik reported on the upcoming vacancy for the family living position, noting Patricia McGee's last day is August 30th. The position needs to be posted for 60 days in the Extension system. Kuzlik noted December 1st is the target hire date.

Paul Dean was excused at 11 a.m. for another meeting.

Summer Assistant report: Howard Sipple circulated a copy of his report of activities for the past 10 weeks and gave a brief verbal summary. He noted the cooperation with neighboring counties or organizations helped provide things for the Fair at little or no cost. There is a great need for the youth to have a good experience and having the judges explain why exhibitors place where they do make it an educational experience. Sipple does not plan to return next year due to transportation costs and the need to operate his own farm. Committee members commended Sipple for all of his work the past two years.

Public comment: Toni Rogers reported the Monico/Pelican Lake Food Pantry will be closing and the RAFP will receive a refrigerator and freezer due to the closure. She also

reported the Community Gardens delivered over 1,500 pounds of produce to the Food Pantry and she circulated photos of each garden. RAFP received several grants and are

in the process of raising funds for a walk-in cooler. Guy Hansen is working on the pantry becoming a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The Friendship House has been donating soup to the pantry but now there is a need for volunteers to process it as the current volunteers will not continue after September. The WNEP program is on track for realizing their budget and Rogers has received recertification for Master Food Preserver.

Dan Kuzlik circulated a letter from WACEC regarding UW Madison hiring a part-time controversial lecturer and Ozaukee County cutting their Extension budget because of it. Tom Rudolph noted he participated in an emergency conference call with the WACEC Board who spoke with Dean Leholm where decisions were made to send this letter to all County Board supervisors in the state. Kuzlik will keep the Committee updated on the issue.

2007 personnel requests: Motion by Guy Hansen/Tom Rudolph to approve the 4-H Summer/Horticulture Assistant LTE position with the additional justification for the additional hours. All ayes; motion carried.

Items for next agenda: Update on Ozaukee County situation, Northwoods Saves update, TAG update.

Adjournment: Motion by Tom Rudolph/Guy Hansen to adjourn at 11:20 a.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerri Ison
Recording Secretary

Wilbur Petroskey, Chair